

1. (Amended) A swab, comprising:

a handle defining a longitudinal axis, the handle being elongated and having a cleaning head end and a grasping end, the cleaning head end defining a securing region, the handle having a bore therein at the securing region; and

a cleaning tip, the cleaning tip being formed from a plurality of extruded, compressed fibers formed by pulling the fibers through a die compressing the fibers into a substantially rigid, elongated cleaning head, the cleaning head being secured to the handle at the cleaning head end, the handle and cleaning tip defining a longitudinal axis, the cleaning tip

2. The cleaning tip is formed from polyester fiber

3. Cancelled.

6. The swab in accordance with claim 1 wherein the cleaning tip is secured to the handle by ultrasonic welding.

7. (Amended) ~~The A swab in accordance with claim 1, comprising:~~

a handle defining a longitudinal axis, the handle being elongated and having a cleaning head end and a grasping end, the cleaning head end defining a securing region; and

a cleaning tip, the cleaning tip being formed from a plurality of extruded, compressed fibers formed by pulling the fibers through a die compressing the fibers into a substantially rigid, elongated cleaning head, the cleaning head being secured to the handle at the cleaning head end, the handle and cleaning tip defining a longitudinal axis,

wherein the handle is a hollow tubular member defining a central bore and the cleaning tip is formed having a shape and a dimension for inserting into the handle bore forming a non-bending swab.

*Amend provided
by Applicant
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8. The swab in accordance with claim 1 including a tether secured to the handle grasping end.

9. The swab in accordance with claim 8 wherein an end of the tether is inserted into the handle bore.

10. The swab in accordance with claim 1 including a grip portion mounted externally of the handle.

11. The swab in accordance with claim 10 including a tether mounted to the swab at the grip portion.

12. The swab in accordance with claim 11 wherein a portion of the tether is disposed between the grip portion and the handle.

13. The swab in accordance with claim 8 wherein the tether is permanently mounted to the handle.

14. The swab in accordance with claim 8 wherein the tether is removably mounted to the handle.